Diversion of MPLAD Fund in Orissa

1027. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the MPLAD Fund given for a specific project for public roads and buildings is being deposited in the State Government's Consolidated Fund and after depositing, the State Finance Department is releasing the LC; and

(b) whether Executive Engineer of Panikoili R and B Division, Orissa has diverted the MPLAD fund and paid Rs. 40 lakhs on other work; other than the MPLAD project as result of which the regional MPLAD project work is pending?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI VIJAY GOEL):(a) The instructions contained in para 2.1 read with para 3.7 of the Guidelines of Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) require the Head of the Districts to follow the established financial procedure of the State Government in respect of the execution of works taken up under the Scheme, subject to the provisions of these Guidelines. In the context of the practice obtaining in the State of Orissa in regard to the execution of MPLADS works by State Govemment agencies, the State Government has been advised to ensure that MPLADS funds are not mixed up with the other financial resources of the State Government and used for any other purpose.

(b) The District Collector, Jaipur has stated that no MPLADS funds have been diverted by the Executive Engineer, R&B, Panikoili Division to other works and that no MPLADS project has been delayed on account of such diversion. It has also been reported that out of the sum of Rs. 110.39 lakh allotted to the Executive Engineer, R&B, Panikoili, a sum of Rs. 89.89 lakh has already been utilised and the balance work is in progress.